

crab-catchers, and also in depositing them in shore only, where they are seldom or ever left dry by the tide. They are frequently strung together in single lines, and overlie each other like scales: the young escape from them in the upper part by an opening which yields to their pressure when they are of sufficient strength: the nidi are horn-colour and semitransparent, and of the shape of the spade on playing cards. This nidus I have been observing for the last three or four years, and from careful investigation I am quite satisfied that it belongs to the *Buccinum reticulatum*. The following I think speaks strongly in favour of that opinion: the "hullies" are frequently (round the lower part) nearly covered with these nidi, and *great numbers of the Buccinum reticulatum are found on and in the "hullies,"* but no other shell of any kind.

The young shells are very much like those of other whelks in having the apex unfinished.

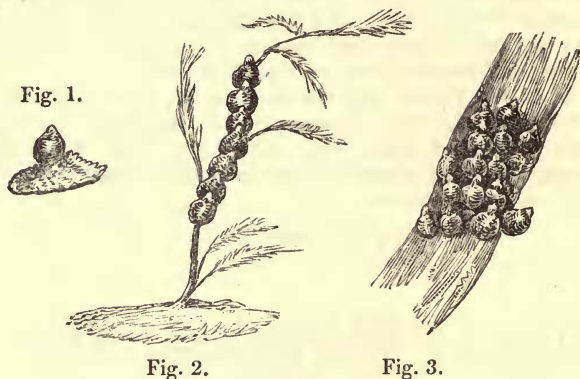


Fig. 1. A single nidus of *Buccinum reticulatum*.

Fig. 2. Several strung together attached to a sea-weed.

Fig. 3. A quantity on a piece of wicker.

XXVIII.—*Notes on Mr. Blyth's "Further notice of the species of Birds occurring in the vicinity of Calcutta."* (*Ann. Nat. Hist.* vol. xiii. p. 113.) By H. E. STRICKLAND, M.A.

No. 21, page 114 *supra*. If Mr. Blyth be right in uniting *Milvus Govinda* to *M. ætolius*, Lesson (which I see no reason to doubt), it ought to stand as *Milvus ater* (Gm.), and *Falco ægyptius*, Gm., *F. Forskahli*, Gm., *Accipiter Milvus*, Pall., *Milvus niger*, Bon., and *Milvus Cheele*, Jerdon, are additional synonyms. But it cannot be the *Falco Cheela* of Latham, as that is said to have a white bar $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide across the tail.

25 a. Mr. Blyth frequently uses specific names without annexing the authority. It is consequently uncertain whether by "*Polypteryx cinereus*" he intends the *Vultur cinereus* of Gmelin,—by "*Vultur in-*

dicus”—the *V. indicus* of Scopoli and Latham, or the *V. indicus* of Temminck, and whether by “*Vultur bengalensis*” he means the *V. bengalensis* of Gmelin, or the bird so called by Gray. In fact, the *Vulturidæ*, though few in number, are still in great confusion, and we are much in want of exact descriptions and exact synonyms of the Indian species.

31. What are the distinctions between the “*Buceros malabaricus*” of Southern, and the “*B. albirostris*” of Northern India? Latham’s figure and description of *malabaricus*, and Shaw’s description of *albirostris*, both exactly agree with a specimen in my collection, and I have therefore always considered them as synonymous.

43. The generic value of *Brachypternus* as distinct from *Tiga* depends on the amount of importance which we attach to the presence of a rudimental hind toe, as compared with its total absence. Now it is true, that when this member is reduced to a minimum, in one set of species, it often disappears altogether in another, without involving any other structural difference. But in this respect *Brachypternus* is certainly as good a genus as *Tridactylia*, *Rissa*, *Calidris*, *Squatarola*, &c., and a far better one than many which are distinguished by the mere form or even the colour of the feathers.

77. The distinction of the *Iora tiphia*, *zeylonica* and *scapularis* into three species is an interesting fact, and I hope Mr. Blyth will soon publish the characters of them. I had long suspected that *I. scapularis* was distinct from *zeylonica*, Dr. Horsfield having informed me that the black-headed specimens never occur in Java.

112. For *melanotus* read *melanotis*. This Bengal bird is probably the *Lanius cristatus* of Linnæus (which is said to be from Bengal). In the ‘Ann. Nat. Hist.’ p. 36 *supra*, I had referred to this species the *L. superciliosus*, Lath., of the Malay countries (which is probably also the *L. magnirostris*, Less., and *L. strigatus*, Eyton). But as Mr. Blyth considers his *melanotis* to be distinct from the latter, it would appear that *L. superciliosus*, Lath., is not the same as *L. cristatus*, Lin. The Indian bird will therefore stand as *Lanius melanotis* (Linnæus’s name *cristatus* being decidedly erroneous), and the Malay species will be *L. superciliosus*. A third allied but distinct species is the *L. lucionensis*, Lin., from the Philippine Islands.

130. *Motacilla indica* is described by Sonnerat as yellow beneath, but Raffles states that his specimens were white beneath, and my own specimen is also of the latter colour. Does this difference indicate two species, or only a change resulting from season?

154 a. The *Vinago chlorigaster* of Mr. Blyth was named almost simultaneously by myself *Treton Jerdoni* (p. 38 *supra*). The yellow of the lower belly seems to be a more distinctive character than the green of the ventral region.

206. *Himantopus asiaticus*, Lesson, seems to be the same as *H. leucocephalus*, Gould, 1837.

The two following notes refer to Mr. Blyth’s paper in the present Number of the ‘Annals,’ which furnishes another proof of that gentleman’s zeal and activity in the cause of science.

Page 175 *supra*. I suspect from the description of *Ardea nobilis* that it is identical with the *A. Goliath*, Temm. Pl. Col. 474, from Abyssinia.

Page 176. *Ardea Caboga* belongs to the genus *Ardeola*, Boié, 1822 (*Buphus*, Boié, 1826). This bird is decorated with no less than eleven synonymous names, the earliest of which is *Ardea Bubulcus*, Savigny, and the following is, I believe, the chronological order of the remainder:—*A. lucida*, Rafinesque; *A. æquinoctialis*, Mont.; *A. coromandelensis*, Steph.; *A. bicolor*, Vieill.; *A. russata*, Temm.; *A. affinis*, Horsf.; *A. coromandelica*, Licht.; *A. Veranii*, Roux; *A. leucocephala*, Cuv.; and *A. Caboga*, Franklin.

XXIX.—Notes on British species of the genus *Bruchus*, with Descriptions of two species not hitherto recorded as indigenous.

By JOHN WALTON, Esq.*

There are not in Walton's Coll in B.M. (Circ. & Chryp.)

Section CURCULIONITES.

Fam. BRUCHIDÆ.

1. *Bruchus Pisi*, Linn. (Mus. Linn.), Germ., Schönh.

Oblong-ovate, black, densely clothed with cinereous and white pubescence: antennæ with the four basal joints rufo-testaceous: thorax transverse, *much broader than long*, and armed on each side with a *distinct* acute tooth: elytra *elongate*; each elytron with a somewhat arched fascia near the apex, composed of white spots: pygidium with two *large* ovate black spots; anterior femora *entirely black*; the anterior tibiæ and tarsi; the intermediate tibiæ at the apex and the tarsi rufo-testaceous; the posterior femora armed with an *elongate spine* beneath, near the apex. Length $2\frac{1}{3}$ lines.

The two examples (one being pinned through the name) in the Linnæan cabinet with a white pea appended to each pin containing the insect, I have not the least doubt, are the genuine *B. Pisi* of Linnæus. In all the British cabinets that I have examined I could only detect one true example of this species, and that in the collection of Mr. Waterhouse. I consider it very doubtful whether the *Bruchus Pisi* of Linnæus should be regarded as a British species. It occurs in Germany and the southern parts of Europe, and likewise in North America.

* In my paper published in the last number of the 'Annals,' some errors in the punctuation have caused one of the paragraphs to be obscure: p. 88, line 5 of the last paragraph, insert a semicolon after the word "straight," and take out the stop after the next word: in line 12, for "rugose; punctate anteriorly; under both sides," read "rugose-punctate; anteriorly under both sides," &c.